

**MINUTES OF THE BEADNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 6.00pm in Beadnell W.I. Hall**

**Present:** Chair- G Martindale, Vice-Chair J Hall  
Parish Councillors: A Baker, A Nation & J Darcy (After Min 98/2023)  
Clerk: I Hunter  
7 Members of the public

**Public Question Time:**

- 1- A member of the public read out the following:  
I know that Councillors are aware of the petition seeking a radical redesign of the crossroads at Swinhoe.  
I also know, from personal experience, that Councillors have in the past expressed concerns over safety at Swinhoe Crossroads. In fact their support for my previous efforts has in some cases been unstinting. In addition information and photographs illustrating the problem has been shared, as well as meetings held with Council officers. More recently I have been grateful for the behind the scenes help in publicising the petition more widely.  
Although not mentioned in the agenda, in my e mails dated 10th August and 5th September, I asked for the Parish Councils support for the aims of the petition. I hope that following item 18 on tonight's agenda that you will be able to reply to those emails?  
Secondly, in an email sent to me by a supporter of the petition I understand that the Principal Highways Programme Officer has advised the Parish Council of his commitment to review the design of the crossroads again once the measures currently planned are complete. Can Councillors please confirm this is the case? and if so, the date this commitment was given and - if known - the timetable for the review?  
I have a meeting with Anne-Marie Trevelyan to discuss the issues next month, In addition, accompanied by Guy Renner-Thompson, she will make a visit to the site in November.  
Time is passing regarding this urgent matter and I would be grateful for Councillors to respond to the foregoing enquiries during their discussion of item 18 on the agenda.  
The Chair thanked the resident for his tenacity on this subject, stating this is an agenda item later tonight.
  
- 2- A member of the public raised concerns about the state of Beadnell including the road conditions and parking especially Harbour Road, compared with other local villages such as Bamburgh.  
The Chair explained that any resident can report any issue linked to services delivered by Northumberland County Council on fix my street, the link can be found on the Northumberland County Council website, and if you sign up you will receive updates.  
The Vice-Chair provided a summary of what Parish Councils can do, and that she thought Bamburgh Parish Council employs a handy person, which is paid for by using precept funds, therefore we would need to raise the precept if we wished to employ a handy person

**Apologies for Absence:** Parish Councillor C Williamson & County Councillor G Renner-Thompson

Parish Councillors agreed to grant Parish Council C Williamson leave of absence until the November meeting.

**Declaration of Interest:** None

**Request for Dispensation-** None

**The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023-** Parish Councillors agreed that the Minutes of the Parish meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were a true record of the meeting. The Chair to sign a hard copy.

**Min 96/2023 (Min 82/2023)- North Northumberland Coast NHP review-** The Vice-Chair reported that North Sunderland Parish Council are consulted on Beadnell planning applications, however, they do not discuss the planning applications.

**Min 97/2023 (Min 92/2023)- Refreshing road markings at the junction of The Haven and The Wynding-** The Vice-Chair reported that Northumberland County Council had renewed the road markings.

**Any urgent matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda-**

**The Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023-** Parish Councillors agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Planning meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were a true record of the meeting. The Chair to sign a hard copy.

**Min 98/2023- Parish Councillor vacancies**

- Parish Councillors received the resignation of Parish Councillor J Rhind. The Chair thanked J Rhind for his service to Beadnell Parish Council.
- Parish Councillors ratified the display of the vacancy notice for Parish Councillor J Rhind.
- Parish Councillors considered the written request received from Jane Darcy, who met the eligibility criteria. The Vice Chair proposed & Parish Councillor A Baker seconded that Jane Darcy be co-opted on to Beadnell Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed Ms Darcy joined the meeting at that point.  
Ms Darcy to sign the Declaration of Acceptance at the end of the meeting.

**Min 99/2023- County Councillor report-** The Clerk reported no report received.  
Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact County Councillor G Renner-Thompson and ask if the Parish Council can receive a copy of the housing survey which Bernicia commissioned.  
Parish Councillors gave a vote of thanks to County Councillor G Renner-Thompson for covering the costs of the winter opening of Beadnell public toilets using his County Council Small Grant funding.  
Parish Councillors also, noted the submission of the Parish Council press release in relation to the winter opening of the Beadnell public toilets.

**Min 100/2023- Planning Applications-**

23/03257/FUL- Proposed extension to the first floor. New external cladding- Meadow Burn West Fleetham Northumberland NE67 5JR.  
Parish Councillors considered the above planning application and unanimously agreed to submit no objections to this application

23/01710/FUL- Erection of a single storey side extension clad in larch as well as 8no. eco-pods embedded within the ground covered with coastal grass species. 5no. single storey double timber-frame cabins and 5no. timber enterprise kiosks and associated car park facility with associated and external ground works- The Landing Benthall Beadnell Chathill Northumberland NE67 5FD

Parish Councillors debated the above planning application and unanimously agreed to object to the application on the following grounds:

- The North Northumberland Coast NHP mentions that the local communities including Beadnell are at saturation point regarding holiday accommodation, therefore a further expansion of holiday accommodation could have a negative impact on amenities of the community, as well as a having a negative impact on the local landscape and designated areas.
- Northumberland County Council Local Plan Policy ECN 15 paragraph (f) about Tourism and Visitor Development does not support new or extensions to existing sites for camping, caravans and chalets inside the 2 AONB's.
- This planning application does not conserve or enhance the special qualities of the AONB and Northumberland County Council Local Plan ENV 5.
- Northumberland County Council Local Plan Policy HOU10 and North Northumberland Coast NHP Policy 14 states new dwellings should be for principal residency only.
- This planning application is overdevelopment of the area.
- No community benefit has been offered as part of this planning application.

Parish Councillors asked County Councillor G Renner-Thompson to call this planning application into Planning Committee.

Parish Councillors agreed if Northumberland County Council are minded to grant permission for the extension to The Landing it is temporary and should be in keeping with the already approved associated planning applications:

22/00557/FUL where temporary approval was given for 4 years and expires on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026.

21/01822/FUL where temporary approval was given for public car parking which expires on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

23/03389/FUL- Single storey rear extension and replacement balcony- 7 Dunes Court Beadnell Northumberland NE67 5EE

Parish Councillors considered the above planning application. Parish Councillor A Baker proposed & the Vice-Chair seconded that the Parish Council raise no objections. This was agreed

However, Parish Councillors would like clarification on the following:

- Is all the information stated on the planning application form correct

- The planning application states a single storey extension when it is patently for two storeys
- The existing windows in Dunes Court are white.

**Min 101/2023- Planning Approvals-**

21/01822/FUL-Proposal for the use of vacant land as public car parking - temporary use- Land South West Of Sandy Lane Court Bernicia Way Beadnell

23/00816/CCD-Change to use of car park to area of land to allow individuals to sleep in self-sufficient Motorhomes (permanent permission requested)- Car Park Benthall Beadnell Northumberland NE67 5BQ

**Min 102/2023- Planning Appeal**

21/04346/FUL- Replace existing building (3no flats/14 no bedsit spaces) with 3no detached houses with 18 bed spaces to be used as holiday accommodation (as amended 20th April 2023)- On The Beach Harbour Road Beadnell NE67 5AN

Parish Councillors debated making a submission to the Planning Inspectorate. Parish Councillors agreed to respond in relation to the points made about the Parish Council by the applicant's representative.

Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to make the following submission  
The application was refused on grounds of overdevelopment.

We can reinforce the Parish Council's original response to the consultation by stressing that the current tarmacked area which serves for car parking and vehicle turning comprises 25% of the site. This will be reduced to 10% and there will be no provision for vehicle turning meaning that they will have to reverse across the King Charles Coastal path and onto the main road which is a bus route.

The application is proposing to increase the number of bed spaces from 14 to 18, something consistently mis-represented in the case officer's report. Beadnell is already over-provided with holiday accommodation and if this were a new-build there would be a condition of principal residence for the additional beds.

**Min 103/2023- Play Areas.**

- Parish Councillors noted the new gate had been installed at the Meadow Lane play area. Parish Councillor A Nation questioned who owned the new gate, and raised concerns about the safety of the closing of the gate referring to the annual ROSPA reports. The Vice-Chair responded to say Karbon Homes funded the gate, and the Parish Council owns the gate. Also, in relation to the safety of the closing of the gate the Parish Council had contacted Northumberland County Council and they had responded to say they had no issues. Parish Councillor A Baker proposed & Parish Councillor J Darcy seconded that the gate is left as it is. This was agreed. Parish Councillor A Nation objected.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that 2 new posts were required for the east side near the exit gate at Kennedy Green. Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor A Nation provide the Clerk with the details of a contractor and the Clerk obtain a written quote for 2 new posts ahead of the November meeting.

- Parish Councillors considered and debated the quotes received from Stableyards to undertake the following 3 options at Meadow Lane play area:
  - 1- The annual cutting of the perimeter hedge.
  - 2- The annual cutting of the perimeter hedge, as well as lowering and hard cutting back of the hedge.
  - 3- The annual cutting of the perimeter hedge, the lowering and hard cutting back of the hedge, as well as removing elders & tree as per request from Chair.Parish Councillors considered suspending S/O's to accept one of the above quotes due the level of costs involved. However, as there was plenty time to obtain and consider additional quotes it was agreed the Clerk request additional quotes from alternative contractors.

The Vice-Chair proposed & the Chair seconded the Parish Council obtain quotes for option 3. A vote took place 3 Parish Councillors supported the proposal and 2 Parish Councillors voted against the proposal. This was agreed by a majority vote.
- Parish Councillor A Nation asked about the proposed hedge/tree planting at Meadow Lane play area. Parish Councillor A Baker advised the meeting that the Parish Council had ordered 120 free saplings from Northumberland County Council which will be delivered in December, therefore some of the saplings will be planted in the play area. Parish Councillors agreed to remove the rose bushes, and tidy up the area ahead of the weed spraying in May.

Parish Councillor A Baker to provide updates at a future Parish Council meeting.
- The Vice-Chair proposed the Parish Council needs to consider which items of play equipment they would like to replace, obtain 3 quotes, speak to surrounding Parishes who had just replaced play equipment, and set up a fundraising group. She concluded by saying BCV are supportive however, they do not capacity to take the lead.

Parish Councillor A Baker suggested the Parish Council takes the lead, prepare a presentation to be shown to the public and undertake a feasibility study.  
Parish Councillors agreed Councillor A Baker along with the Vice Chair & Councillor J Darcy work on a feasibility study.  
The Vice-Chair asked Parish Councillors for their agreement for to her attend an online NALC funding training session at a cost of £39.22. This was agreed that the Clerk book a place for the Vice-Chair.
- The Vice-Chair asked Parish Councillor A Nation for an update on the removal of the soil heap. Parish Councillor A Nation replied the soil is being used to fill holes etc in the play area and should be totally removed shortly.
- Parish Councillor A Nation asked the meeting if they would like to consider installing a smaller information sign at the Kennedy Green entrance/exit to replace the current large sign. Parish Councillors agreed the large sign remain in place at the current time.

#### **Min 104/2023- Cemetery**

- The Vice-Chair reported that she had received another email from Northumberland County Council in relation to the Memorial safety inspection report and reminded the Parish Council that all warnings were amber warnings. Also, the Clerk had contacted the families for which the Parish Council holds contact details. She concluded by saying she will continue to liaise with Northumberland County Council on this matter.
- Parish Councillor A Nation provided a verbal update in relation to the drainage. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk obtain 3 written quotes in time for the January meeting once

she receives the specification for the works required.

**Min 105/2023- Trees-**

- Parish Councillors noted the following permitted decision notices from Northumberland County Council:
  - 1- 23/02291/TREECA St Ebba's Village Green The Haven Beadnell (cherry tree)
  - 2- 23/02292/TREECA Beadnell Cemetery The Old Vicarage Swinhoe Road (cherry tree)
  - 3- 23/03021/TREECA St Ebbas Church The Haven Beadnell (beech tree)
- Parish Councillors considered the previously circulated quotes to fell 2 cherry trees & 1 beech tree.
- Parish Councillor A Baker proposed & the Vice-Chair seconded the preferred contractor as Unstumpable at a cost of £1000 + VAT. This was agreed depending on the timescale when the works can be undertaken.  
 Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Unstumpable asking for a timescale for the works to be undertaken.  
 Parish Councillors agreed all timber to be left on site.
- The Vice-Chair reported that the Parish Council needs to monitor the costs to the Parish Council in relation to trees & hedges which the Parish Council are responsible for, as these are now a considerable amount.

**Min 106/2023- Financial Statement**

Current Account	£ 13785.77
Savings Account	£ 19477.95

**Min 107/2023- Finance:**

**Receipts**

• Donations	£ 160.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Home owners
• NEDL	£ 9.66	Wayleave
• HMRC	£ 1856.83	VAT refund
• NCC	£ 6000.00	½ Annual precept
• Barclays Bank	£ 52.05	Interest Savings A/c
• Bart Endean	£ 150.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Inscription Plot 701

**Payments made**

• County Durham ALC	£ 10.00	Parish Councillor training
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**Payments due**

• I Hunter	£ 432.83	Salary 41.5 hours @ £ 12.73 per hour + 19 hours @ 0.67p per hour back pay
• HMRC	£ 108.20	PAYE
• I Hunter	£ 21.21	Expenses
• Beadnell WI	£ 30.00	Room hire
• Town & Parish Council Websites	£ 175.00	Annual website fee
• S Ternent	£ 1080.00	Grass cutting

**Min 108/2023- Ring-fenced reserves.**

- Parish Councillors considered the previously circulated report.
- Parish Councillor A Baker proposed the £4,500 donation from CountyLife be allocated to the 2022/23 play area expenditure, and the £5,000 donation be allocated to the repairs to the cemetery boundary wall.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council should have agreed that the donations were to be allocated to specific expenditure before the expenditure was agreed.

Parish Councillor A Baker questioned the ring-fencing of the memorial bench donations, and confirmed £6,000 is ring fenced for play equipment.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had to ring-fence funding for election purposes and the next election is due in 2025.

**Min 109/2023- Conclusion of the Annual Audit 202/2023-** Parish Councillors agreed to defer this agenda item until the November meeting as there had been no updates from the External Auditor.

**Min 110/2023- Updates**

Parish Councillors received updates on the following items and considered any actions:

- a) **Swinhoe junction.** Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council Highway's Programme Officer for an update on the proposed works as the email dated 24<sup>th</sup> August stated the works should be undertaken within the next 2 weeks, and so far, the works had not been undertaken.  
Parish Councillors agreed to individually sign the petition, and the Chair to sign the petition on behalf of Beadnell Parish Council. Parish Councillor A Nation reported that the petition deadline had been extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> November and as of 25<sup>th</sup> September 553 people had signed the petition.
- b) **Coastal erosion & flooding-** Parish Councillor A Nation referred to an email update the Parish Council had received, stating that so far, the Parish Council had not received a copy of the report mentioned in the email, which relates to scheduled works. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council and ask if the Parish Council can have a copy of the report.
- c) **Chathill rail services** The Chair thanked Parish Councillor A Nation for attending the recent online meeting. Parish Councillors noted the previously circulated update from the online meeting. Parish Councillor A Nation provided a summary from the meeting, and suggested the Parish Council should support the proposal for more trains to stop at Chathill.
- d) **Pollution/sewage in Beadnell- Update from meeting with NWL-** The Chair, Vice-Chair & Parish Councillor A Nation provided verbal updates, which included that NWL explained which pipe network they were responsible for, stating that any other pipe network is not their responsibility and should be raised with the Environment Agency. NWL confirmed that the water quality at Beadnell beach in 2023 is excellent. County Councillor G Renner-Thompson is looking into setting up a meeting with the Environment Agency, and the Parish Council will be invited. The Vice-Chair stated NWL will supply literature about wet wipes in the water system and she will raise the issue with AONB asking for a publicity campaign.
- e) **Winter opening of Public Toilets/press release-** The Chair reported this was covered at Min 99/2023
- f) **Beadnell-Seahouses footpath-** No updates received.

- g) **The cost of additional grass cuts within the Parish-** Parish Councillors agreed not to accept the quote of £1706.40 + VAT from Northumberland County Council for 3 additional grass cuts of the parish per year.
- h) **Bus stop/poles issues in Beadnell village-** Parish Councillor A Nation explained there are 3 bus stops in Beadnell going north and 2 going south, however it is not clear to residents and holiday makers exactly where all the bus stops are and the current timetables are incorrect. She concluded by saying she is in dialogue with Northumberland County Council Officers on this matter and offered to erect temporary notices to help bus users until Northumberland County Council erect the permanent notices. Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor A Nation erect the temporary notices as per her suggestion in a previous email.
- i) **Training-** Parish Councillor A Nation asked Parish Councillors for their agreement for her to attend an online NALC Planning training session at a cost of £39.22. This was agreed and that the Clerk book a place for Parish Councillor A Nation.

**Min 111/2023- AONB-**

- Parish Councillors noted AONB highway & public realm design guide.
- The Vice-Chair proposed that the meeting with AONB Manager be an open meeting. This was agreed.
- Parish Councillors agreed the date for the meeting with AONB Manager would be 18<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm.
- Parish Councillors agreed the Vice Chair, along with Parish Councillors A Nation & J Darcy will attend the Climate Change Workshop on 12/10

**Min 112/2023- Correspondence**

- **NCC-** North Northumberland LAC July meeting presentations.
- **NCC-** Free tree give away
- **Member of public-** Email – questions Meadow Lane play area. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk respond to the resident stating all points noted.
- **Resident-** Phone call Re smell of sewage from Caravan Park on Main Road.
- **Local Business owner-** Email request for donation towards safety & security. Parish Councillors agreed that as per the Parish Council's donation policy businesses are not eligible for a donation. The Clerk to update the business owner.
- **NCC-** Invite to North Northumberland LAC 28/9

**Min 113/2023- Policies**

- Parish Councillors undertook annual review of the Risk Assessment. Parish Councillor A Nation proposed adding a Cemetery Administrator, and a tree section. Parish Councillors agreed to add a Cemetery Administrator, as well as a line on trees referring to the tree policy.
- Parish Councillors noted the previously circulated website statistics. Parish Councillor A Baker suggested a website review should be undertaken in the future.
- Parish Councillors considered preparing a H & S Policy. The Vice-Chair proposed and Parish Councillor A Baker seconded that the Parish Council did not prepare a H & S Policy. A vote was undertaken 4 Parish Councillors voted for the proposal. 1 Parish Councillor voted against. This was agreed by a majority vote.



**BEADNELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
Web Site ★ [www.beadnellparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.beadnellparishcouncil.co.uk)

- Parish Councillors to consider appointing a H & S Officer. This was not required as the Parish Council employed less than 5 employees. The Parish Council voted against preparing a H & S Policy.

The meeting reached 2 hours and as it was not agreed to suspend Standing Orders the meeting closed. The remaining agenda items will be added to the November agenda.

**Any Other Urgent Business-** N/A

**The date of the next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 6pm**  
**AONB public meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6pm**

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_